

STRONG YOUTH • STRONG FAMILIES • STRONG FUTURES • STRONG COMMUNITIES

May 29, 2008

Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

The Latin American Youth Center (LAYC) is a multicultural community-based organization that supports youth and their families in their determination to live, work, and study with dignity, hope, and joy.

As one of DC's leading youth development agencies helping over 4000 low income young people in DC and Maryland make a successful transition into adulthood, the organization benefits greatly from collaborations with media partners. But since 2005, LAYC has been able to do a greater job spreading the word thanks to the constant support from one radio station in particular. With the launch, of the premier radio station for Latinos in the DC metropolitan area El Zol 99.1 FM radio station three years ago, the community at large has gained broader knowledge of issues affecting them such as gang violence, homelessness, teen pregnancy, immigration, and education.

More than a radio station, El Zol plays a significant advocate role in the community, helping advance the mission of several non-profits in the area. Unlike other media outlets, El Zol's puts the community first. Such conviction to work on behalf of society can be easily seen through the many causes El Zol gets involved in. Some examples within our agency:

- El Zol has become a player in gang prevention issues.
- El Zol stands up for homeless youth.
- El Zol helps educate the community about literacy.
- El Zol works in collaboration with our Youth Job Fair.

Much more can be said about El Zol's contribution to the community, but will probably need to write a book with several editions to narrate the effect the radio station has had in the community. LAYC views El Zol as the people's station. Every staff member at El Zol is dedicated to the advancement of their listeners. They pay attention to what's relevant and take action. In the past three years, El Zol has showed the community its commitment and loyalty.

El Zol *Siempre de Fiesta* is really in tuned with the community, its needs and concerns. With El Zol, listeners laugh, smile, cry, and forget their worries. But most importantly they learn, find success and become better people.

Sincerely,

Lori M. Kaplan

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Executive Director

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LAYC Family of Organizations

LAYC YouthBuild Public Charter School
3014 14th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009

Next Step/El Próximo Paso Public Charter School

1419 Columbia Road, NW
Washington, DC 20009

Latin American Montessori Bilingual Public Charter School
1375 Missouri Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20011

Art + Media House
3035 15th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009

Ward 4 - Petworth
801 Shepherd Street, NW
Washington, DC 20011

Maryland Multicultural Youth Centers
1320 Fenwick Ln, Suite 600
Silver Spring, MD 20910

7411 Riggs Road, Suite 418
Langley Park, MD 20783

6200 Sheridan Street
Riverdale, MD 20737

Ben & Jerry's Scoop Shop
327 7th Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003

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CFC #55027
EIN #52-1023074